



Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Newsletter

What's New and What's News in Clean Fuels? Volume 4 – Summer 2003

- Final Program Plan Submitted
- Air Quality Boundaries Proposed
- New Stakeholders Join Coalition
- Congratulations USC Motor Vehicles
- New Logo Sneak Preview
- Alternative Fuels on the Road
- Soybean Board Biodiesel Study
- United Energy Wins Award

Final Program Plan Submitted:

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition could be the newest Clean City in the nation within the next few months! On July 3, 2003, the PSCFC re-submitted its Program Plan to the Atlanta Regional Support Office (ARSO) of the Department of Energy. After a regional review, the plan was sent to Washington with ARSO's recommendation for designation. A DOE Headquarters staff member is now analyzing the Plan to ensure that all the questions and concerns outlined in the first review were resolved. Once that hurdle has been cleared, the Plan will be sent to Ms. Shelley Launey, the National Clean Cities Program Director for final approval. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work and assistance. We are especially grateful for your patience in signing Letters of Commitment, participating in vehicle surveys, and helping us to make the Plan accurate and reflective of all the great things that we have achieved. We look forward to the day when our efforts will be recognized in a designation ceremony. To review a copy of the latest Plan, visit www.state.sc.us/energy/cleancities.htm. Copies of the minutes from the June 4 Coalition Stakeholder meeting are also available at this site.

New Logo Sneak Preview:



Upon designation, the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition will introduce a new logo. This will incorporate the original logo designed by Chris Howard of the University of South Carolina into a new layout. Keep an eye out for the new logo in the coming months.

Air Quality Boundaries Proposed:

In response to the US EPA's request for updated recommendations for 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard designations, the SC DHEC submitted recommendations on July 14th, 2003. These recommendations were made on the basis of air quality data, planning and control considerations, and other air quality-related concerns. The proposed boundaries encompass the urbanized portions of 4 of the 8 SC Metropolitan Statistical Areal portions of

11 counties. Areas within the PSCFC include Aiken and Columbia. These recommendations may be revised once the 2003 ozone data is available. For more information about the recommended non-attainment designations, ozone and other air issues, visit the Bureau of Air Quality website at www.scdhec.net/baq.

Alternative Fuels on the Road:

A recent survey identified a total of 1,232 alternative fuel vehicles operating on alternative fuel in the nine-county PSCFC service area. Of these vehicles, 691 (56.1%) are E-85 flex fuel, 461 (37.4%) are B20 biodiesel, 42 (3.4%) are propane, 20 (1.62%) are compressed natural gas, and 18 (1.5%) are electric vehicles. Many of these vehicles are owned and operated by PSCFC stakeholders. Even more exciting, most respondents said that they planned to buy and operate more AFVs in the next five years. Taken together, our stakeholders will add 2,005 operational AFVs to the road through 2008. This represents an annual increase of approximately 21.5% or roughly 401 vehicles annually. PSCFC hopes that other fleets across the state will emulate the example set by our stakeholders to use alternative fuel in coming years. Little by little, South Carolina will become a leader in alternative fuel use.

New Stakeholders Join Coalition:

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition has added several new stakeholders since the last newsletter. Richland County and Chester County have both agreed to become active participants. This should serve as a great example to other counties in our Coalition Area. Also joining is the Lower Savannah Council of Governments operators of the Three Rivers Landfill. Havird Oil/Palmetto Propane has joined as a fuel provider. Mark Hall has joined as our first individual citizen member. Two community groups have joined, the Katawba Valley Land Trust and the Carolinas Clean Air Coalition. Welcome to all our new stakeholders, we look forward to working with you to increase alternative fuel usage in South Carolina!

Soybean Board Biodiesel Study:

The South Carolina Soybean Board, with funding from the Southeastern Regional Biomass Energy Program/Southern States Energy Board, is in the process of completing a feasibility study dealing with Biodiesel. The study examines the soybean oil crushing facility, Carolina Soya, located in Estill, SC, and the oil that the plant produces as the primary provider of soybean oil for a Biodiesel production facility in the state. When soybeans are processed, two primary products are produced – soybean meal and soybean oil. In South Carolina, soybean growers have a huge demand for soybean meal, but they need to develop more markets for the surplus of oil. Biodiesel is an excellent way to create a market and a demand for soybean oil. According to the preliminary results of the feasibility study, when the cost of Biodiesel blends are compared to the incremental costs of other alternative fuel technologies, Biodiesel is usually the least cost strategy. The goal of the study was to determine if a Biodiesel processing facility in South Carolina is feasible. Along with looking at the potential markets for Biodiesel, the study also looks at other factors such as the potential markets for glycerin, the by-product of the Biodiesel production process. The results of the study should be available to the general public by mid-August. The study will be posted on the South Carolina Soybean Board's web site at www.scs soybeans.org, or available by calling the board at (803) 734-1767.

Congratulations USC Motor Vehicles:

Congratulations go out from the Coalition to Derrick Huggins, Chris Howard and the rest of the staff of the USC Vehicles Management and Parking Services on the publicity received for their biodiesel buses. Articles have appeared in several local papers, on talk radio and WIS News evening report on the conversion of the shuttlecock buses to biodiesel. Thanks to their outreach efforts, the front page of the Metro-section of The State Newspaper was devoted to educating Columbia residents on the opportunities for improving the environment and reducing dependence on foreign oil through the use of alternative fuels. It's always exciting to see alternative fuels programs get the recognition they deserve for their efforts. Great job USC!

United Energy Wins Award:

Congratulations to the employees of United Energy, the winners of the 2003 ConocoPhillips Spirit of Excellence award. This award is given every year to ConocoPhillips distributors that strived for growth and innovation in the industry. The award comes as a result of United Energy's pursuit to advance alternative fuels. The award was received at ConocoPhillips' national convention in Las Vegas in May. ConocoPhillips thrives on promoting the distributors that pursue the excellence that its own company strives for in the oil industry. The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition would like to acknowledge and congratulate United Energy for their hard work and dedication in the pursuit of excellence. We're proud to have you as a stakeholder and fuel provider in South Carolina.